



THE

# RecyCool PLANET

The Official RecyCool Club Publication

Summer Edition

## Summer Greetings from Recycle Rex!

Hello to all my RecyCool Club friends! It's summer time and for some of you, that means that school is out! I'm looking forward to enjoying all the fun outdoor activities, such as spending a day at the beach, going to a baseball game, playing at the local park or taking a bicycle ride.

My friends and I had a busy Spring season. Not only did we present school assemblies in six counties, but we also celebrated Earth Day at events in Oxnard, Fresno, Truckee, Orange County, San Diego, Sacramento, Culver City, and Los Angeles! It was a lot of fun sharing the benefits of recycling, reducing, reusing and closing the loop (buying products made from recycled materials) to all who visited my exhibits.

You can find out where I will be in the upcoming weeks by logging onto our website at [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov). Go to the "Kids & Educators" section and look for "Where will Rex be?"

This issue of the RecyCool Planet focuses on PLASTIC, including some fun and easy ways to reuse your plastic beverage containers. You will learn how plastic beverage containers are recycled into new products. Did you know that plastic can be recycled into different things such as clothing, benches and carpet?

Don't forget to recycle this newsletter when you're finished! Even better, give it to your friends or family to read when you're done. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and remember to recycle where you live, work and play!

## Megaphone

### Items Needed

- 1 two-liter plastic soda bottle - empty and washed
- Scissors
- Masking tape
- Construction paper or colored paper scraps

### Instructions

- 1) Wrap a piece of masking tape around the bottle, about two and a quarter inches from the bottom.
- 2) Ask an adult to help you cut along the bottom edge of the masking tape. Recycle the bottom of the bottle and discard the bottle cap.
- 3) Place another piece of masking tape around the opening so part of the tape can be folded over the sharp edge of the megaphone.
- 4) Decorate your megaphone with construction paper or scraps of colored paper.

Now you're ready to cheer for your favorite team!



## Energy Conservation Tips

- Ask your parents to set the thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room.
- To help prevent electrical outages, avoid running your appliances during peak hours, -- from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. -- or anytime an electrical emergency is declared.
- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle to allow dishes to air dry instead.
- Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
- On hot days, draw the curtains and/or shades to keep the sun out. Remember to close doors to the outside to keep the cooler air inside.

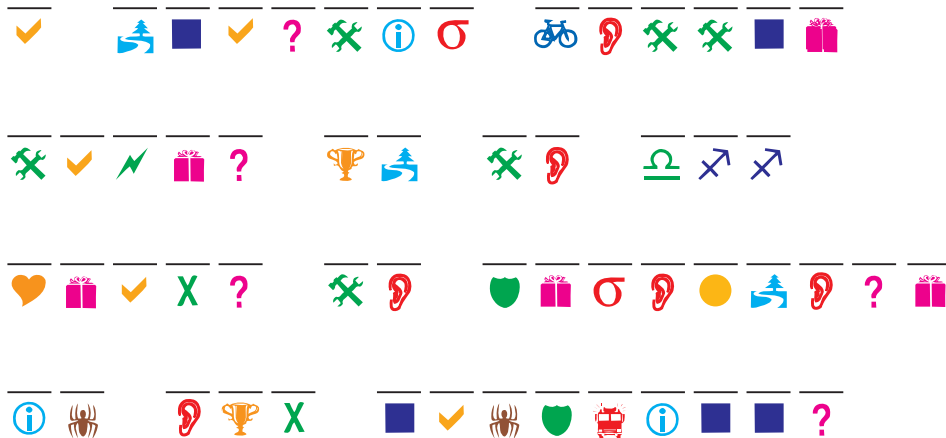
For more energy conservation tips, visit [flexyourpower.com](http://flexyourpower.com)



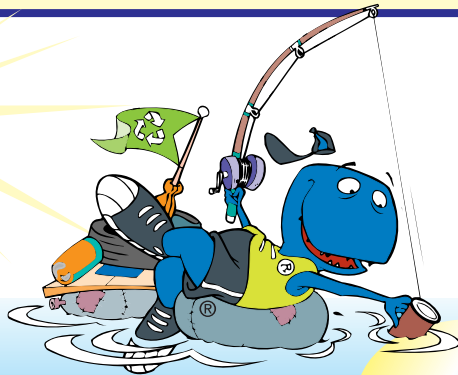
## Secret RecyCool Code

Recycle Rex and his friends found an ancient recycling book written in special code. Use the secret code box and help Rex and his friends discover why our plastic bottles should never be thrown in the trash. Write the letter that matches the picture in the secret code on the lines provided.

**RecyCool Tip:** You can reuse the secret code box to create your own secret words and phrases.



### Secret Code Box



## Congratulations RecyCool Graduates!

If this is the fourth issue of the RecyCool Newsletter you've received from me, you have officially graduated from the RecyCool Club! I won't be sending the graduates any more newsletters... however, to continue learning about recycling you can log on to my website at [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov). Look for the "Kids & Educators Section!" and remember to recycle where you live, learn and play!

## Congratulations to Mrs. Kruse's first grade class from Henderson Elementary!

Mrs. Kruse's first grade class, from Barstow California, won Recycle Rex's Recycling Challenge. This class did their homework! "They learned what recycling means, what can be recycled and what cannot be recycled in class before entering the Recycling Challenge," said parent Terri Gable. Mrs. Gable provided the class with copies of the RecyCool Planet Newsletter and other activities from the Department of Conservation's website. Mrs. Kruse's class collected a total of 240.58 pounds of aluminum, 51.1 pounds of plastic and 6 pounds of glass containers. Besides winning some cool prizes made from recycled plastic bottles, Mrs. Kruse's class received a total of \$85.92 from the recycling center! They plan to use this money for a year-end celebration and to plant flowers or trees in their schoolyard. Way to go Mrs. Kruse's class!



## What? A PET T-shirt!


Have you ever wondered what happens to plastic soda bottles after you recycle them?

Would you believe that they're used to make new products like T-shirts, shoe laces, toys, carpets, fiberfill for sleeping bags and coats, park benches and bookmarks. There are hundreds and hundreds of things made from recycled PET plastic.

You might be asking yourself - **WHAT IS PET?**

PET is short for Polyethylene Terephthalate. Now that's a mouthful! Plastic soda bottles, some detergent bottles, plastic peanut butter jars, and many other containers are made of PET plastic.

**HOW CAN YOU TELL IF A CONTAINER IS MADE OF PET?**

If you see this symbol  on the bottom of a container, it's PET.

# How are Plastic Bottles Recycled?

Recycle Rex and his friends wanted to know the answer to this question one warm, summer day while picking up recyclables in their local park. So they went to their local recycling center and found out!

- 1** Plastic containers are brought to the recycling center where they are sorted by type and sometimes color. They are crushed together and formed into a huge cube or bale.



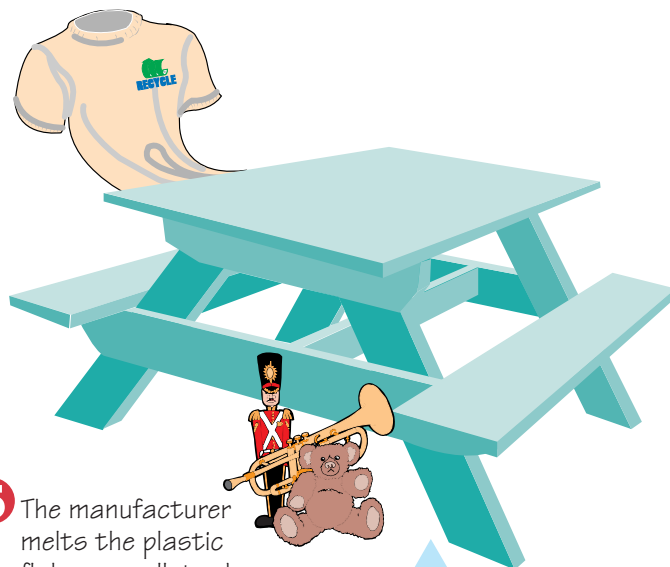
- 2** The bales of plastic are shipped to a plastics processing plant.

- 3** The plastic is broken apart and shredded into flakes or pellets and then cleaned.



- 5** The manufacturer melts the plastic flakes or pellets down for molding into new products like:

- fiberfill for sleeping bags
- plastic lumber
- containers for non-food products
- toys
- compost bins
- rulers
- T-shirts



- 4** The flakes or pellets are shipped to manufacturers of plastic goods.



State of California  
THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
Department of Conservation  
Division of Recycling  
801 K Street, MS 20-24  
Sacramento, CA 95814



All right gang! Are you ready for all the important facts for my contest? YOU can make a difference and help save the Earth. The easiest way is by recycling, reducing (the amount of trash we make) and reusing your beverage containers. **Draw a picture showing how you will recycle, reduce or reuse your beverage containers in the year 2003 to help save the Earth.**

- The deadline to turn in your picture is **November 1, 2002.** ☒ ☐
  - It should be drawn on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper-landscape layout.
  - Please make sure pictures are dark enough to photograph (light pencil marks will not show up).
  - Do not include Rex or any other characters that have a copyright in your picture.
  - Print your name, address, and age on the back of your picture.
  - The top 12 pictures will be shown off in my special "Recycle 2003" calendar and the artists will receive a Recycle Rex duffle bag.
- Good Luck!**

The first 50 club members to enter their picture in the contest will receive a RecyCool Club Binder made from recycled plastic soda bottles. Look for the featured pictures on my web site after February 2003. The address is: [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov). You will find the RecyCool Club under the "Kids & Educators" section.

#### Send your pictures to:

RecyCool Club • California Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS 20-24  
Sacramento, CA 95814



## RecyCool Tips!

You already drank everything that was in your plastic beverage container? What can you do besides tossing it in the recycle bin? Recycle Rex has some great ideas!

1. Fill an empty plastic bottle with water or your favorite drink and freeze it. Use it to keep your ice chest cold, then drink it after it melts.
2. Decorate it and use it as a vase for your summer flowers.
3. Crafts! There are many crafts you can make with empty PET bottles and milk jugs. Log onto [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov) and look in the Kids & Educators section. Recycle Rex has many different crafts to choose from such as a piggy bank, bubble blower, bird feeder and many more!
4. Put a string around the neck of the bottle and use it as a neck purse to gather scavenger hunt items, or use it when you go to the beach to hold sea shells or cool rocks.

## Answers

### Secret RecyCool Code

Answer: A plastic bottle takes up to 700 years to decompose in our landfills.